

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 8, 17, 20, 25 and 26 and ADD new claims 27 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of operating a speech recognition system, comprising:

augmenting the speech recognition system by providing with an augmenting grammar set supplied by a first speech recognizer of a portal to a second speech recognizer; and transferring control over user interaction to the second speech recognizer independent of the portal; and

notifying the portal in response to an input which corresponds to the augmenting grammar set responsive to speech recognition executed via ~~a-~~the second speech recognizer independent of the portal, thereby transferring control over the user interaction to the portal and performing subsequent speech recognition at the portal.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the speech recognition system resides at an application server remote from the portal.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising transferring control of a call back to the portal after notifying the portal that the input corresponds to the augmenting grammar set.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising transferring a call to another application server which corresponds to the input.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising directing the remote application server to perform one of a fixed set of pre-determined actions on behalf of the portal in response to a predetermined input.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising directing the remote application server to perform an arbitrary routine on behalf of the portal in response to a predetermined input.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising directing the portal to perform an action in response to a predetermined input.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system comprising:  
a portal having a first speech recognizer; and  
an application server having a second speech recognizer to receive an augmenting grammar set transmitted from the first speech recognizer of the portal, the application server controlling user interaction, wherein the application server notifies the portal in response to an input which corresponds to the augmenting grammar set, thereby transferring control over the user interaction to the portal and performing subsequent speech recognition at the portal.

9. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a voice gateway to connect a call to the portal.

10. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein when a caller requests access to the application server, the voice gateway connects the call to the application server and breaks the connection between the call and the portal.

11. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the portal includes a speech recognizer.

12. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein in response to an input being recognized as corresponding to the augmenting grammar set, control of the call is transferred from the application server to the portal.

13. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the call is transferred to another application server in response to recognizing a predetermined input as corresponding to the augmenting grammar set.

14. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the application server performs one of a fixed set of pre-determined actions on behalf of the portal in response to a predetermined input which is recognized as corresponding to the augmenting grammar set.

15. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the application server performs an arbitrary routine on behalf of the portal in response to a predetermined input which is recognized as corresponding to the augmenting grammar set.

16. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the portal performs a predetermined action corresponding to an input which is recognized as corresponding to the augmenting grammar set.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising:  
connecting a call to a portal having a first speech recognizer;  
requesting services of a remote application server having a second speech recognizer via the call;  
transmitting an augmenting grammar set of the first speech recognizer from the portal to the remote application server;  
connecting the call to the remote application server and transferring control of the call including user interaction to the remote application server;  
breaking the connection between the call and the portal;  
notifying the portal when an input during the call corresponds to the augmenting grammar set in accordance with speech recognition executed via the second speech recognizer; and  
transferring control of the call including the user interaction back to the portal and performing subsequent speech recognition at the portal.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising reconnecting the call to the portal in response to recognizing a predetermined input as corresponding to the augmenting grammar set.

19. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising performing a predetermined action in response to an input which is recognized as belonging to the augmenting grammar set.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for operating a speech recognition system, comprising:

means for augmenting the speech recognition system with an augmenting grammar set supplied by a first speech recognizer of a portal;

means for transferring control over user interaction to a second speech recognizer; and

means for notifying the portal in response to an input which corresponds to the augmenting grammar set responsive to speech recognition executed via a-the second speech recognizer independent of the portal, thereby transferring control of the speech recognition and subsequent user interaction to the portal when said input corresponds to the augmenting grammar set.

21. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the input corresponds to at least one DTMF tone.

22. (ORIGINAL) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the input corresponds to an spoken utterance.

23. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the input corresponds to at least one DTMF tone.

24. (ORIGINAL) The system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the input corresponds to an spoken utterance.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of controlling a call in a speech recognition system, comprising:

augmenting a first speech recognizer of an application server with a grammar set from a portal having a second speech recognizer;

transferring control over caller interaction to the first speech recognizer of the application server; and

switching control of ~~a-call~~the caller interaction from the application server to the portal responsive to detection of an input corresponding to the grammar set via the second speech recognizer of the application server, and performing subsequent speech recognition at the portal.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of controlling a call in a speech recognition system, comprising:

transferring a grammar set of a portal to an application server and subsequently transferring control of the call to the application server from the portal;

determining whether ~~a~~the call includes an input corresponding to the transferred grammar set based on speech recognition controlled by the application server, said determining being while the portal is handling other calls; and

returning control of the call back to the portal subsequent to determining that said input corresponds to the transferred grammar set based on the speech recognition by the application server and performing subsequent speech recognition related to interaction with a caller at the portal.

27. (NEW) A method, comprising:

determining an input from a caller matches a grammar set supplied by a portal, said determining being during interaction of the caller controlled by an application server independent of voice recognition by the portal; and

implementing subsequent voice recognition via the portal by controlling interaction of the caller using the portal responsive to said determining.